

Message Text

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R 260710Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 315

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, MY

SUBJ: UMNO CONGRESS DEBATES

REF: A) K.L. 3531 B) K.L. 3357

1. SUMMARY: ANNUAL MEETINGS OF UNITED MALAYS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION (UMNO) AND ITS YOUTH AND WOMEN'S AFFILIATES JUN 20-22 HIGHLIGHTED ECONOMIC NATIONALISM IN MALAY COMMUNITY BY REAFFIRMING AND URGING INTENSIFICATION OF GOM'S PRO-BUMIPUTRA (INDIGENOUS MALAY) SOCIAL-ECONOMIC PROGRAMS WHILE AT SAME TIME PLEDGING THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE AT EXPENSE OF NON-BUMIPUTRAS. PRIME MINISTER RAZAK TOLD CONGRESS THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN IMPROVING ECONOMIC POSITION OF MALAYS BUT PRESENT SITUATION IS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. PRIORITIES OF 1976-80 THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN ARE "TO IMPROVE...LOT OF LOW INCOME GROUP, ESPECIALLY RURAL MASSES (READ MALAY), AND INVOLVE BUMIPUTRAS IN MODERN SECTOR OF ECONOMY." AMONG RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY CONGRESS WAS CALL THAT 50 PERCENT OF

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LICENSES FOR EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES BE

SET ASIDE FOR MALAYS. ON FOREIGN RELATIONS SIDE, PM RAZAK DEFENDED DIPLOMATIC RAPPROCHEMENT WITH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC), BUT FOR FIRST TIME BROUGHT OUT INTO OPEN FACT THAT GOM PROTESTED RECENT RADIO PEKING BROADCAST OF "FRATERNAL GREETINGS" OF CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY. CONGRESS DELEGATES ALSO VOICED CONCERN ABOUT DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION AND CALLED FOR MORE STRINGENT MEASURES AGAINST COMMUNIST TERRORISTS. IT APPEARS RAZAK AND TOP UMNO LEADERSHIP TOOK CRITICISM OF GOM'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS IN STRIDE AND THEY ARE REPORTEDLY PLEASED WITH ENDORSEMENT BY CONGRESS OF GOM'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY, AS WELL AS BY OUTCOME OF ELECTIONS REPORTED REF A. END SUMMARY.

2. RAZA REPORTS: ARTICLES IN LOCAL PRESS INDICATE THAT IN HIS WRITTEN REPORT TO 26TH UMNO ANNUAL MEETING, PM RAZAK CLAIMED SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN PROMOTING BUMIPUTRA PROGRESS BUT ACHIEVEMENTS ARE "STILL NOT QUITE SATISFACTORY." NOTING THAT IN 1974, 57 BUMIPUTRA PROJECTS WERE APPROVED BY GOM AND MALAYSIAN DOLLARS 84.9 MILLION (APPROX US DOLLARS 40 MILLION) IN BUMIPUTRA CAPITAL OWNERSHIP WAS ACCUMULATED, RAZAK SAID GOM MUST FURTHER ASSIST MALAYS IN ECONOMIC SPHERE. SPECIFICALLY, THERE IS GREATER ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (E.G., PERNAS, UDA, BANK BUMIPUTRA, STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS) IN ECONOMIC LIFE OF NATION WITH OBJECTIVE OF CREATING NEW MIDDLE-CLASS. REGARDING DISPARITIES IN DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, RAZAK SAID GOM WILL "NOT ALLOW A QUARTER OF THE SOCIETY TO LIVE IN LUXURY AND PROSPERITY WHILE OTHERS LIVE FROM HAND-TO-MOUTH." HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW NON-BUMIPUTRA BUSINESSMEN TO SUFFER AS RESULT OF INCREASED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES GIVEN TO MALAYS, BUT AT SAME TIME GOM WILL NOT ALLOW ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COMMUNAL GROUPS TO WIDEN. RAZAK ALSO TOOK CREDIT FOR DROP IN INFLATION RATE FROM 17.4 PERCENT IN 1974 TO 10 PERCENT THIS YEAR.

3. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, EASING OF INFLATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAND DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES AND GREEN BOOK PLAN, NOTING THAT AGRICULTURE SECTOR, INCLUDING FORESTRY AND FISHING, WILL PROVIDE 50 PERCENT OF JOBS. HE STRESSED NEED TO INTENSIFY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT NOTING THAT ONLY 10 PERCENT OF BANK LOANS WENT TO AGRICULTURE. INCREASED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES WILL GO TO AGRICULTURAL BANK. ESSENCE OF POLICY IS TO PRODUCE ABUNDANT ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS AND CREATE SUFFICIENT JOBS."

THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN PRIORITIES ARE "IMPROVE...
LOT OF LOW INCOME GROUP, ESPECIALLY RURAL MASSES,
AND INVOLVE BUMIPUTRAS IN MODERN SECTOR ECONOMY."
HE INDICATED NEED TO CREATE MORE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROUP LEFT BEHIND. STATE GOVERNMENTS
URGED TO SPEED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITH RICH STATES
PAYING THEIR OWN WAY. HE EXPRESSED INTENTION TO
URBANIZE RURAL PEOPLES THROUGH CREATION OF URBAN
GROWTH CENTERS IN LESS DEVELOPED STATES. THIRD
MALAYSIA PLAN WILL CONTINUE CREATE CORE OF BUMIPUTRAS
ENTREPRENEURS IN TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND ALSO CREATE
SMALL BUMIPUTRA INDUSTRIES. PM ALSO SAID THERE WILL BE BIGGER ROLE
FOR PRIVATE SECTOR UNDER THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RAZA

K
REAFFIRMED GOM'S POLICIES OF REGIONALISM AND RELIANCE
ON ASEAN, NON-ALIGNMENT, DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAMIC
SOLIDARITY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL NATIONS IRRESPECTIVE
OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. HE TOOK STRONG STAND AGAINST
DEOMESTIC COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AND DISSENTERS SAYING THAT
"ALL SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WHO ARE OUT TO CREATE CHAOS
AND DISUNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE" CANNOT BE ALLOWED AND
THAT NO SEGMENT OF POPULATION CAN HAVE DIVIDED LOYALTIES.
HE ALSO REAFFIRMED STRONG STAND THAT GOM HAS TAKEN TO
CONTROL ITS NATURAL RESOURCES AND TO FORESTALL UNREST
ON THE NATION'S COLLEGE CAMPUSES. (FULL TEXT OF
RAZAK'S SPEECH WILL BE SENT ALL ADDRESSEES.)
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4. CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS: FIVE RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED BY CONGRESS WITHOUT DEBATE AFTER IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT DEBATE WAS UNNECESSARY SINCE THE RESOLUTIONS WERE COVERED IN THE PM'S SPEECH: A) 50 PERCENT OF ALL LICENSES TO EXPLOIT NATURAL RESOURCES SHOULD BE SET ASIDE FOR BUMIPUTRAS, COMPANIES CREATED BY STATUTORY BODIES (E.G. PERNAS) SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MALAYS, AND ADDITIONAL WAYS AND MEANS OF PROMOTING BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMY SHOULD BE STUDIED; B) EDUCATION MINISTER WAS ASKED TO IMPLEMENT STRINGENT REGULATIONS FOR CONTROL OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES, TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST "UNDISCIPLINED" TEACHERS AND TO IMPROVE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION; C) GOVERNMENT SHOULD COMBAT "MORAL DECAY" THROUGH MEDIA, SCHOOLS AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, AND INTRODUCE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT EVERY LEVEL OF SCHOOLING; D) SPECIAL INCENTIVES SHOULD BE DEVELOPED TO GIVE LABORERS SHARES OF COMPANIES THEY WORK FOR; ANDE) GOM'S GREEN BOOK PLAN TO BOOST FOOD PRODUCTION WAS ENDORSED. DURING DEBATES, ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS, CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT WAS LARGELY GOOD-NATURED AND INTERSPERSED WITH HUMOR; DELEGATES STEERED CLEAR OF SHRILL CRITICISM AND EXTREME PROPOSALS.

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DURING UMNO YOUTH AND WOMEN'S MEETINGS ON JUN 20, GOVERNMENT WAS URGED TO: CREATE SPECIAL MINISTRY TO MONITOR BUMIPUTRA PARTICIPATION IN ECONOMY; INTENSIFY ISLAMIC PROPAGATION IN SCHOOLS; WITHDRAW CITIZENSHIP OF CONVICTED DRUG TRAFFICKERS; REVOKE BUSINESS LICENSES OF FIRMS NOT COMPLYING WITH GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES ON EMPLOYMENT OF MALAYS; AND LIMIT DISTRIBUTION OF CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES IN ORDER TO PREVENT YOUNG GIRLS FROM BECOMING PROMISCUOUS. YOUTH AND WOMEN'S RESOLUTIONS, HOWEVER, DID NOT REACH CONGRESS FLOOR AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS WERE NOT OBLIGED TO ACCEPT THEM AS GUIDANCE FROM PARTY.

5. FOREIGN RELATIONS: IN ADDITION TO HIS EXPOSITION OF GOM'S FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES PER PARA 3 ABOVE, RAZAK REVEALED THAT GOM PROTESTED TO PRC OVER CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY (CCP) "FRATERNAL GREETING" TO MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY (MCP) ON OCCASION OF LATTER'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY APR 30. HE SAID CHINESE AMBASSADOR WANG YU-PING WAS TOLD THAT CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

WAS CONTRARY TO ASSURANCES BY CHAIRMAN MAO THAT PRC HAS NO INTEREST IN MALAYSIA'S COMMUNIST INSURGENCY. RAZAK THEN REITERATED MAO'S PROMISE THAT TERRORIST PROBLEM IN MALAYSIA IS "ENTIRELY OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, FOR US TO DEAL WITH AS WE THINK BEST." (SEE ALSO K.L. 2466 AND K.L. 3086.) SEVERAL DELEGATES EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SINGAPOREAN INFLUENCE IN JOHORE'S ECONOMY AND CRITICIZED GOS FOR BANNING MALAY LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS, NOTABLY THOSE OF UMNO-INFLUENCED "UTUSAN MELAYU" PUBLISHING GROUP. APART FROM CONCERN OVER EXTERNAL INFLUENCES POSSIBLY RELATED TO DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION, THERE WAS LITTLE OTHER COMMENT BY DELEGATES ON GOM'S FOREIGN POLICY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: PUNGENT CRITICISMS OF GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO STEM COMMUNIST TERRORIST ATTACKS WERE EXPRESSED BY SEVERAL DELEGATES, MOST FORCEFULLY BY REPRESENTATIVE OF PERAK UMNO. HE CRITICIZED HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE FOR MAKING UNFOUNDED STATEMENTS THAT GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS WINNING WAR AGAINST COMMUNIST AND HE PROPOSED THAT CABINET COMMITTEE BE SET UP TO DIRECT COUNTER-INSURGENCY EFFORT, RATHER THAN LEAVE THIS IMPORTANT PROBLEM ENTIRELY IN GHAZALI'S HANDS. NOTING RISING TIDE OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS (SEE ALSO K.L. 3516), DELEGATES WERE ALSO CONCERNED THAT CT'S HAVE PENETRATED NEW AREAS AND HAVE RESORTED TO URBAN TERRORISM. IN REPLY, GHAZALI SAID GOM IS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING PEOPLE'S VIGILANTE CORPS TO MAINTAIN SECURITY IN VILLAGES AND TO PATROL COASTAL AREAS TO PREVENT ARMS (AND DRUG) SMUGGLING. GHAZALI AND RAZAK ADMITTED THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF ARMS SMUGGLING FROM INDOCHINA, BUT SAID GOM INTENDS TO COOPERATE WITH THAI GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT INFUX OF ARMS. RAZAK ALSO SAID THAT GOVERNMENT WILL INSTITUTE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CENSUS TO AID IN CONTROLLING MOVEMENT OF TERRORISTS AND UNDERGROUND CADRES, AND THAT ALL SEGMENTS OF POPULATION WILL HAVE TO SUPPORT GOM IN DEFEATING SUBVERSIVES AND TERRORISTS.

7. TUN MUSTAPHA: SEVERAL DELEGATES NOTED THAT SABAH CHIEF MINISTER TUN MUSTAPHA HAS NOT TAKEN UP APPOINTMENT AS FEDERAL DEFENSE MINISTER AS ANNOUNCED BY RAZAK WHEN NEW CABINET WAS FORMED IN SEPT 1974. ONE DELEGATE ALSO CALLED FOR DESIGNATION OF FULL-TIME DEFENSE MINISTER (RAZAK HAS HELD THIS PORTFOLIO SINCE 1970) AND SAID THAT MALAYSIA'S SECURITY CANNOT BE ENTRUSTED TO A MERE DEPUTY MINISTER (SENATOR

DZULKIFLI HAMID FROM SABAH). RAZAK REPLIED THAT
MUSTAPHA DECIDED NOT TO TAKE UP APPOINTMENT BECAUSE
"PEOPLE OF SABAH WANTED HIM TO REMAIN IN THE STATE."
RAZAK ALSO SAID HE DID NOT "SEE ANY PROBLEM" IN HIS
HOLDING THE DEFENSE POST.
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8. BEGIN LOU: COMMENT: CONGRESS DEBATE AND
RESOLUTIONS WERE CAREFULLY MANAGED BY LEADERSHIP TO
PREVENT UNWANTED INITIATIVES FROM BEING FORCED ON
GOVERNMENT; FOR EXAMPLE, OVER 100 RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED
BY PARTY BRANCHES AND DIVISIONS WERE WINNOWNED DOWN
TO THE FIVE THAT WERE APPROVED WITHOUT DEBATE. ALSO,
MUCH DISCUSSION WAS SHORT-CIRCUITED BY NEW INITIATIVES,
ESPECIALLY IN ECONOMIC SPHERE, ANNOUNCED IN RAZAK'S
ADDRESS, AS WELL AS BY FREQUENT REFERENCES TO RECENT
ECONOMIC LEGISLATION, SUCH AS PETROLEUM ACT
AMENDMENT, WHICH HAVE GIVEN GOM POLICIES A DECIDED
NATIONALISTIC TING. WE UNDERSTAND RAZAK AND HIS
AIDES ARE HIGHLY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF CONGRESS
(ESPECIALLY ELECTIONS REPORTED REF A), ALTHOUGH THERE
WAS SLIGHT JARRING NOTE IN CRTICISM OF GHAZALI
SHAFIE'S HANDLING OF GOM'S COUNTER-INSURGENCY

EFFORT. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT RAZAK IS IN FIRMER
CONTROL OF HIS PARTY THAN BEFORE THE CONGRESS.
END LOU.
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